

OPEN LETTER

To Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States:

Mr. President,—Not being actuated by any malice, I desire to ask you a few questions which I hope may be seriously considered. You claim to be president of the people of the United States, irrespective of color or condition. Your declaration for a "square deal" has become household words. In your Cabinet you have recognized certain nationalities which claim to be political factors in the American body politic, and ignored others who have been loyal and faithful, not only to the republic, but to the present party in power.

You have recognized the Jews, have you not? What have the Jews done in comparison with what the colored Americans have done, both in war and in peace? You have recognized the Irish, have you not? What have the Irishmen done in comparison with what the colored Americans have done?

In diplomatic service you have recognized elements that have been menaces to the party in power and to the republic, have you not? There are, in this country over eleven millions of colored Americans who have received scanty recognition and you have boasted to the South that you have made less appointments from this race than your late predecessor, President McKinley. Will you kindly explain what you mean? Do you want the South to understand that you have made certain colored appointments and you do not intend to make any more? You made this statement two years ago and since that time you have made no additional colored appointments. I mean to new places. You, of course, appointed Mr. W. T. Vernon to succeed another colored man, which does not count. There is no office of a national character to which you have appointed a colored American in recognition of the eleven million colored Americans. You are aware of the voting strength of the colored Americans; why then have you not appointed a few of them to positions commensurate with their voting strength? Your son-in-law, Representative Longworth, has published to the world that it is not your intention to be a candidate again, but he believes that Mr. Taft is the best man to succeed you. You may think so, Mr. President, but the American people do not. You have wronged the faithful blacks in this country. You have demonstrated by your recent order of dismissal that you have no faith in the colored Americans.

Mr. Longworth, your son-in-law, may echo your sentiments, but the colored Americans will bid farewell to the Republican party if you thrust upon them a man like Secretary Taft or any other man in your administration or any man who holds to your views or named by you. The chains that once held the colored man have been broken and today he walks the public streets a free citizen, although he may be restrained to some extent from exercising freely his civil and political rights. It is true he intends to join the army, notwithstanding the dismissal of his brave comrades. It is his right and constitutional privilege. He loves his country although you may be opposed to him. He will defend the flag, although he is discriminated against. He will continue his loyalty and patriotism to his country although he is disfranchised and in many parts of the country he is compelled to Jim Crow it. In almost every department of this government he is made to feel that he is not wanted among his white fellow citizens, many of whom are inferior to him intellectually. There may be one exception, under the present administration, where the colored American is treated as a man and a citizen. It is not necessary for me to name that department. In the department of Commerce and Labor there is not a colored clerk. My friend, Hon. Geo. B. Cortelyou, failed when he was at the head of that department to appoint one colored clerk, although many applied and passed successfully the civil service examination. I have

no complaint to make against the Jews, but in that department they are supreme. The Jews have organized and asserted their independence. I wish the colored Americans would do likewise. The Jews have shown force. The Catholic Church seems to monopolize every important position. The Catholic Church has demonstrated its power. I have always thought that it would be a good idea for the colored Americans to join the Catholic Church, because I am of the opinion that they would receive better protection. Other denominations seem to discriminate against the colored Americans. The white Methodists, the white Presbyterians and a few others want to be to themselves. Since the church divides, why should be surprised when we see parties divide? You say that you want Secretary Taft to succeed you. Why? Why not nominate Senator Foraker, Vice-President Fairbanks or Secretary Shaw? The American people have confidence in these men. You will find out, Mr. President, that the colored Americans are thinking. They are not only thinking but they intend to act. They will do no act that will be detrimental to themselves, but they intend, however, to act in a manner that will better their condition. You must admit that the Republican politicians have taught many colored Americans to hate the Democratic party. You know that the Democrats in the South whom the colored Americans have been taught to hate, are given the authority by a Republican administration to decide whether a white or colored Republican or a good Democrat shall receive an appointment. Republicans South have nothing to do with appointments in that section. Colored Republican politicians are ignored. You may see hope ahead. I do not. You may realize that you are strong politically. But wait and you will see the set set. You will see the rise of the black Republicans under a new call. You will be convinced that not even a President of the United States will be able to check the tide. You have caused the Senate, it is true, to give you a bill of health. You have applied the big stick, and this dignified body like a lot of school children must obey the master. What has become of our American independence? What has become of the representatives of the people. The recent action of the Senate demonstrates the force of electing the Senate by a direct vote of the people. The colored Americans do not ask for sympathy. They ask only for fair play and justice. They ask that they be given the same opportunity to defend themselves as all other citizens. They ask that the constitution of the United States be enforced and nothing more. They have nothing more to ask of you, Mr. President. They have lost faith in you and you might as well know it now. They intend to pilot their own ship and if they fail they will not be the first. Human rights have been subordinated for practical politics. The time has come for the black man to act and remember, Mr. President, no diadem was ever reached if the watchman sleeps at his post. The black man is charitable. He is grateful. He is not revengeful. With those three cardinal principles in view he means to win his way. Until his hope is realized, remember

Yours truly,
THE EDITOR.

THE AFRO-AMERICAN COUNCIL
Washington, D. C.,
January 3, 1907.

To the Members of the Executive Committee of the Afro-American Council:

You are hereby notified that there will be a meeting of the committee on Monday evening, February 4, 1907, at five o'clock at Colburn Church.

Business of importance to be considered; full attendance is earnestly desired. A Mass Meeting to follow at the above-named place at eight o'clock p.m.

Fraternally yours,
S. J. Cozart.

The exhibits of the colored people at the Jamestown Exposition will be arranged in the Negro Building by Street.

READ THE BEE.

What I Saw And Heard

I visited the Capitol a few days ago and heard the speech of Senator Tillman. He is more amusing than he is dangerous. His reply to Senator McCarmack was full of wit and humor.

Attorney James A. Cobb is working hard for his client, Cardozo. I must congratulate the fighting qualities of this attorney.

Admiral Bird is not a bad man. He wants to see the public schools in a good condition.

I feel confident that Superintendent Chancellor is not satisfied with the High School, although there is a new head.

Well, you should take a walk through the new police court and see its construction. I don't see anything to be thankful for. It is true that a great deal of money has been spent for the erection of this court, but a walk through it will change the minds of the people. Just think of it. One whole side is in use for a private entrance for the judges and the exit for

Foraker's Resolution

SHARP DEBATE WITH FORAKER AT GRIDIRON DINNER.

HIS POLICIES THE ISSUE "All Coons Alike" to President; "All Persons" to Senator

Foraker, Who Was Not on Program for Speech, Was Called on After President Had Defended His Course on Brownsville and Japanese Questions. Rights of Senators Vigorously Championed by Ohio Statesman.

New York, Jan. 27.—A special dispatch from Washington says that the discussion between President Roosevelt and Senator J. B. Foraker, at the Gridiron Club dinner on Saturday night, is being whisperingly rehearsed in Washington today. The Gridiron Club's dinners are not reported for publication, except officially—that is, an account of the jokes of the hosts at the expense of their distinguished guests is prepared, censored, and issued, and the guests themselves may, in a spirit of jocularity, utter all sorts of statements that would be surprising to the country at large and find no mention of these extravagances in the press.

Invariably speeches made by public ways continue to do so.

ways continue to do so.

All Coons and All Persons.

"Not only all coons, but all persons look alike to me," said Senator Foraker. The oath of a United States Senator is as sacred as the oath of the President, and as high a sense of duty may inspire a Senator as that inspiring the occupant of the White House."

The Senator denied that the motive of a critic of the administration or of an act of the administration was, of necessity, an unworthy motive.

Mr. Foraker's well-known eloquence of manner was effective, and when he concluded in ringing tones, with a ringing tone, with a wave of the hand toward the President, in these words, "You know, Mr. President, I love you so," the applause was loud.

Twice the President attempted to still the applause, evidently with the intention of making a running debate, but the hand-clapping continued to almost the point of embarrassment. When order was secured, the President got the floor, raised his glass, and proposed the health of the Ohio Senator.

The speech of the President and the reply of Mr. Foraker consumed so much time that the dinner was adjourned before four or five speakers on the programme could be heard.

SENATOR FORAKER'S RESOLUTION

As passed Tuesday in the Senate read as follows:

Resolved, That, without questioning the legality or justice of any act of the President in relation thereto, the Committee on Military Affairs is hereby authorized and directed, by subcommittee or otherwise, to take and have printed testimony for the purpose of ascertaining all the facts with reference to or connected with the affray at Brownsville, Texas, on the night of August 13-14, 1906. Said committee is authorized to send for persons and papers, to administer oaths, to sit during sessions or recess of the Senate, and, if deemed advisable, at Brownsville or elsewhere, the expenses of the investigation to be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate.

CONSTITUTIONAL LEAGUE ORGANIZED.

Trenton, N. J., Jan. 28, 1907.

To the Editor—

The members of the State Constitutional League of New Jersey take pleasure in stating that on the 23rd of January, 1907, the most representative gathering of Colored Citizens from all parts of the State of New Jersey that has met for years assembled at the New Indian League Hall, 260-266 Washington Street, Newark, N. J., and organized a State Constitutional League with the following officers:

Alfred B. Cosey of Newark, president; Rev. H. Gillen of Cape May county, Rev. Goodwin of Monmouth County, C. R. H. Hawkins, of Union County, vice-presidents; Lewis Johnson and George Bates of Essex county and T. Bagley of Union county, secretaries; N. Vandervall of East Orange, treasurer.

Hon. G. Stewart made the principle speech stating in full the evidence taken by him on the Brownsville question.

Resolutions were adopted condemning the action of the President in discharging the soldiers without a trial. An address was issued by the league to the people of New Jersey. The League has opened headquarters in Newark and intends to do all in its power to assist in bringing about a fair exhaustive investigation of the trouble. The convention adjourned subject to the chair. It is the intention of the chair to make a call at an early date, for the purpose of discussing the school question in New Jersey.

Respectfully,
Lewis Johnson,
Secretary.

REV. WALDRON.

The new pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church gave his congregation a severe lecture last week. He told the members that he had not gone to three colleges for nothing. He declined to give the two hundred or more members of Trinity Baptist Church letters of withdrawal. Those who led the revolt, he said, must be tried, and those who were persuaded to leave could get their individual letters. All of them declared that if every member does not receive his letter not one will accept, but remain in Trinity Church just the same.

Last Monday Brother Joseph Duskett, 33, of Excelsior Lodge No. 2, F. A. A. Y. M., departed this life. Deceased was connected with different orders and highly respected. He leaves a wife and three small children.

Ill. P. B. Brooks, 33, M. D., we are glad to say is convalescent.

PARAGRAPHIC NEWS

BY MISS BEATRIZ L. CHASE.

George Burnham, Jr., who was former general counsel for the Mutual Life Insurance Company, Ossining, N. Y., was put to work last Monday afternoon in the printing shop in Sing Sing prison.

The Norfolk and Western railroad officials last Monday said before the corporation commission at Richmond, Va., that they would lose money on a flat 2-cent rate in Virginia.

Rifle shooting will hereafter be a part of the education of the children in the schools of Great Britain.

Mrs. Geo. H. Richardson is doing nicely in the work of the public schools, to which she has been appointed. She makes a good official.

Dr. Wm. Thompkins of Kansas City, Mo., says that tuberculosis is most destructive among the American dark-skinned people.

The National Mirror in its issue of January 26 contained a great deal of information concerning the Masons of Kansas City, Mo., and the great good that is being accomplished by them.

Mr. Homer G. Philips, a graduate of Class '03, Howard University Law School, is a growing success in his profession at Sedalia, Mo.

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church will give a unique entertainment in the church Friday evening, February 15. Mrs. M. L. Meriwether is president of the society.

Miss M. Vaux Warrick is very active and doing much to make the exhibition of art at Jamestown a success.

Mr. John W. Parker, a graduate of the Law Department of Howard University in 1906, has opened his law office in Baltimore, Md.

It is reported that Bishop Turner fell and broke his arm in Kansas City while attending the Bishop's Council.

The wife of Rev. N. M. Carroll, pastor of Asbury M. E. Church, Annapolis, Md., is recovering from her recent illness.

The funeral of Miss Bertie B. Barradall, who died at the residence of her sister, Mrs. Jas. Steven of Washington, recently, took place at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Barradall, in Virginia.

Mr. J. Barnett of Newport News was called to this city by the recent death of his mother.

Dr. W. A. Credit preached at the funeral of Mr. Geo. Roy, who died in Philadelphia and whose remains were brought here for interment.

The violin recital by Mr. Joseph Douglas in Wilmington, Del., was a success.

The question as to what your Easter dress shall be and how it shall be made is answered in McCall's Magazine for March. Every instruction as to what will be most becoming to you is given. Be sure to consult McCall's "The Queen of Fashions" about your new dress.

"The Gazetteer and Guide" contains many interesting articles for the month of February.

TRINITY CHURCH.

Rev. J. Anderson Taylor was too sick to occupy the pulpit last Sunday, but Professor Corruthers, the elocutionist and divine, occupied the pulpit. There were about three hundred people out last Sunday evening, and a large collection was taken up during the morning and evening services. About two hundred of the members met at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Roe last Friday night and a committee of twenty-five was appointed to go to Shiloh and present a petition, on which were two hundred or more names, asking for their letters. Attorney Jones was chairman of the committee. When the committee arrived at the church Attorney Jones arose and said that he represented Trinity Church, and that he had a petition signed by over two hundred members who had withdrawn from Shiloh who wanted their letters. Rev. Mr. Waldron became very indignant and told Attorney Jones that he could not get any letters. Whereupon Attorney Jones and his committee withdrew. The new church of which Rev. Mr. Taylor is pastor has increased its membership to a little over three hundred. This new church will build next spring.